

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 26 24 June 2013 – 30 June 2013

In summary, we report:

- **Enterovirus infections** – decrease in activity
- **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)** – one new case reported
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough)** – continuing decline in reporting
- **Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW**

For further information on infectious diseases see the [NSW Health Infectious Diseases](#) webpage.

Follow the [Infectious Disease Factsheets](#) and [Disease Data](#) links for more information on specific infectious diseases.

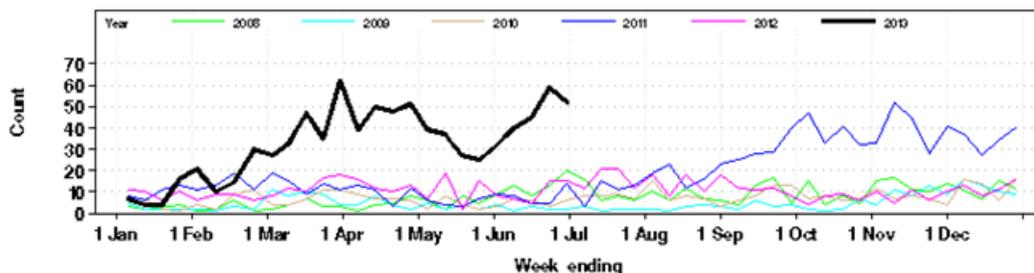
For links to other surveillance reports, including influenza and enterovirus surveillance reports, see the [NSW Health Infectious Diseases Reports](#) webpage.

Enterovirus infections

Enterovirus infections (other than poliomyelitis) are not notifiable in NSW. One of the ways that NSW Health monitors enterovirus activity is through NSW Emergency Department (ED) presentations for [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) (HFMD) and for “meningitis or encephalitis”.

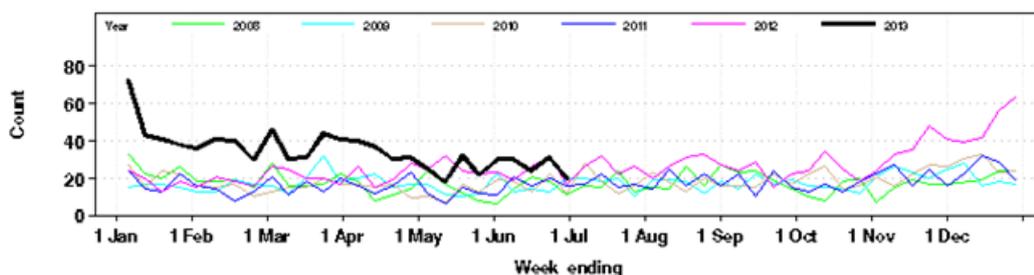
HFMD ED presentations decreased slightly to 56 this week, remaining well above the usual level but below the peak of around 70 at the end of March. HFMD presentations were mainly in children under 5 years (Figure 1), and were highest in South Western Sydney, Central Coast, Northern Sydney, and Mid North Coast Local Health Districts.

Figure 1: Total weekly counts of ED presentations for HFMD for 2013 (black line), compared with each of the 5 previous years (coloured lines), children aged under 5 years, for 59 NSW hospitals.



In the past week, the number of patients presenting with “meningitis or encephalitis” decreased to 20 and was at the upper end of the usual range for this time of year (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Total weekly counts of ED presentations for meningitis/encephalitis, for 2013 (black line), compared with each of the 5 previous years (coloured lines), all ages, for 59 NSW hospitals.



It is important to note that a range of enteroviruses can cause HFMD, and that many other pathogens can also cause meningitis and encephalitis.

The two NSW reference laboratories conducting additional typing of enterovirus samples report that there have been at least 70 patients who have tested positive for Enterovirus 71 (EV71) this year. It is important to note that EV71 typing is not routinely performed for all samples that test positive for enterovirus, and there has been more EV71 testing performed this year in response to enhanced surveillance efforts. Other enteroviruses, including coxsackieviruses and echoviruses, have also been regularly identified.

The National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory in Melbourne has also [recently reported](#) that some EV71 isolates from NSW and other parts of Australia this year have been confirmed to be C4a, a sub-genogroup circulating in China and South East Asia in recent years, which has been associated with more severe neurological complications than other sub-genogroups.

Follow the link for more information on [enterovirus infections](#).

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Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) Disease

One case of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b (Hib) infection was notified in this reporting week (Table 1), only the fourth case notified in 2013. The case was a three month old infant who had received one Hib vaccine.

Infection with Hib bacteria can lead to serious illness including meningitis and epiglottitis. These infections have become rare following the introduction of Hib vaccines. Urgent treatment is necessary for cases as Hib disease can be life threatening.

Four doses of a vaccine containing a Hib component are recommended in NSW for all infants at six to eight weeks, four, six and twelve months of age.

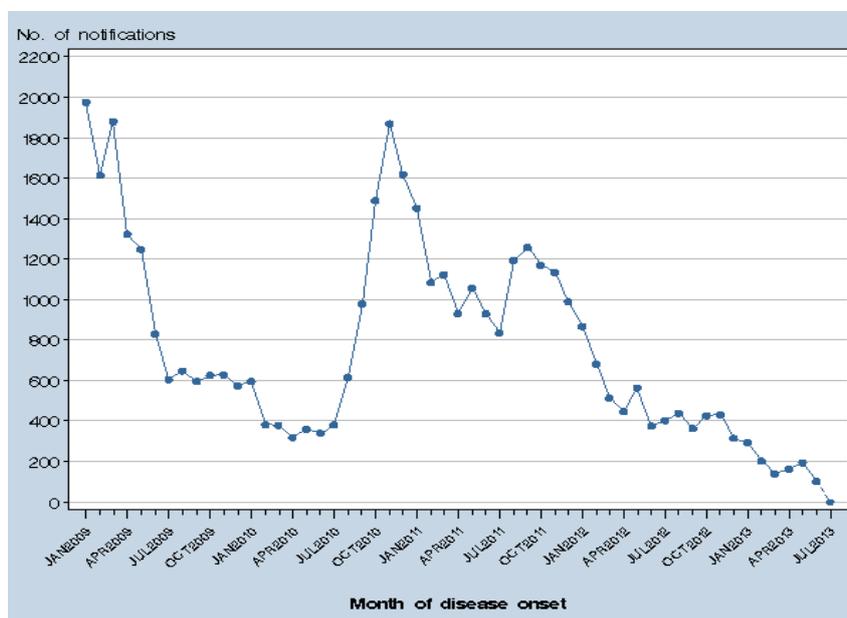
Follow the link for further information on [Hib notifications data](#).

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Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

There were 30 cases of pertussis infection (whooping cough) notified this week (Table 1). There has been a steady decline in pertussis notifications since a peak in November 2010, which saw 1,870 notifications (Figure 3). In June 2013 there were 102 pertussis notifications, the lowest monthly total since March 2007.

Figure 3. Pertussis notifications in NSW residents, by month of onset, January 2009 to July 2013.



Pertussis can be a life threatening infection in babies. Infection in babies can lead to apnoea, pneumonia, feeding problems and weight loss, seizures, brain damage and, in some cases, death. Older children and adults can also get pertussis and pass it on to babies.

Babies need to be immunised at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months of age. The first dose can be given as early as 6 weeks of age.

For more information on pertussis immunisation see the [Australian Immunisation Handbook – 10th Edition](#).

For more information on pertussis see the [NSW Health Whooping Cough \(Pertussis\) website](#).

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Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

The following table summarises notifiable conditions activity over the reporting period (Table 1). See explanatory notes below.

Table 1. NSW Notifiable Conditions activity for the period 24 June to 30 June 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	9	13	916	440	218	655	354
	Giardiasis	33	37	1268	1212	1445	2015	2377
	Hepatitis A	2	1	39	19	37	41	60
	Listeriosis	1	0	22	20	12	36	20
	Rotavirus	9	6	197	342	395	1761	1208
	Salmonellosis	39	49	2046	1655	2451	2942	3566
	Shigellosis	2	1	59	68	75	131	126
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	86	80	962	1865	1134	8041	5790
	Legionellosis	2	1	47	67	61	105	104
	Tuberculosis	5	8	153	194	248	441	538
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	369	387	10598	11053	10353	21263	20449
	Gonorrhoea	88	85	2164	2033	1295	4114	2818
	LGV	1	0	18	6	25	28	36
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	8	4	357	166	221	262	352
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	1	0	4	0	4	2	4
	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	14	30	36	68	71
	Mumps	2	3	49	68	31	110	61
	Pertussis	30	28	1182	3576	6819	5996	13410
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	12	10	213	218	211	567	530
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	3	12	279	188	335	344	472
	Dengue	4	2	102	174	79	289	148
	Malaria	1	1	41	27	39	68	82
	Ross River	14	16	324	427	466	596	591
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	1	3	65	71	64	123	144

Notes on Table 1: NSW Notifiable Conditions activity

- Data cells represent the number of case reports received by NSW Public Health Units and recorded on the NSW Notifiable Conditions Information Management System (NCIMS) in the relevant period.
- Data cells in the 'Adverse Event Following Immunisation' category refer to suspected cases only. These reports are referred to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for assessment. Data on adverse events following immunisation is available online from the TGA [Database of Adverse Event Notifications](#).
- Only conditions for which at least one case report was received appear in the table. HIV and other blood-borne virus case reports are not included here but are available from the [Infectious Diseases Data](#) webpage.

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